

John Hay NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Planning Update

Fall 2008

USFWS Announces Start of CCP for John Hay National Wildlife Refuge

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is pleased to announce that we are initiating the development of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the John Hay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). John Hay NWR is the former estate of John Hay, private secretary to Abraham Lincoln, Ambassador to Great Britain, and Secretary of State under Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt.

About the Refuge

The Refuge is located in Newbury, New Hampshire on the shores of Lake Sunapee. It was established in 1972, after Alice Hay donated the property to the Service "...as a migratory bird and wildlife reservation to be known as the John Hay National Wildlife Refuge..." Currently, the refuge consists of approximately 80 acres on the southern half of the original property, allowing the Service to focus its efforts on fulfilling the purpose of the refuge beyond maintaining the estate buildings and grounds. To this end, a recent land exchange gave the Fells fee title ownership of the house and grounds



The Fells USFWS photo



Undeveloped shoreline E. Victory photo

of the estate, for 727 acres of northern forest to be appended to Lake Umbagog NWR. The John Hay NWR is currently the southern 80 acres of the former estate.

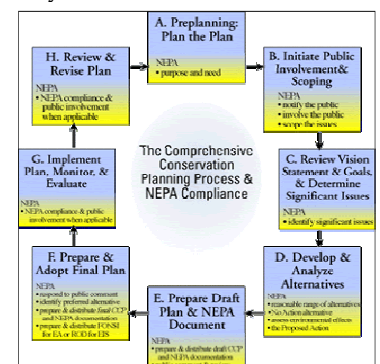
Why Create a CCP?

According to the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1997, each refuge within the National Wildlife Refuge System is required to create a CCP by 2012. The CCP for John Hay NWR will establish management goals and objectives for all refuge programs over the next 15 years, while providing opportunities for compatible, wildlife-dependent public uses. We will evaluate refuge wildlife, habitat, and land

protection and visitor service priorities during the planning process.

The CCP Process

The first step in the planning process is to select a planning team that consists of representatives from the refuge staff, States, and affected Tribes. They will organize the information underlying the plan. Next, public involvement is sought to provide input on the refuge vision and goals, as well as to help identify issues to be addressed in the proposed plan and subsequent alternatives. The planning team will then incorporate this feedback as they develop and analyze alternatives, including current management. The plan can then be written, with additional opportunities for public involvement. The plan will be reviewed and revised every 15 years.



Contact Information

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Creating a Vision for the Future

As a result of our first planning team meeting, we drafted these Visions and Goals for the John Hay NWR. These reflect our values and commitment to continuing to provide quality habitat and a quality experience at the John Hay refuge.

Draft Refuge Vision

John Hay NWR is a unique setting and destination in the Lake Sunapee region. It is situated between the lake and a larger network of conserved forestland extending throughout Sunset Hill. Together with adjacent conservation lands, refuge forests provide important habitat for migratory birds and other northern forest wildlife in the midst of increased development in the region. The refuge provides an extensive, undeveloped shoreline, as well as public ownership, amidst the predominantly privately developed lake community. We will continue to maintain its unique character within the context of the region, and provide important habitat for wildlife.

John Hay NWR provides a valuable mature forest ecological component to this larger network of conserved forest lands. Through local and state partnerships, it contributes to the natural resource management and environmental education opportunities in the region. The refuge supports large majestic trees exemplary of a mature northern pine and hardwood forest habitat that complement the younger, more diverse and actively-managed lands of its adjacent conservation partners. The refuge will continue to contribute to the biological integrity and diversity of the Atlantic northern forest and Lake Sunapee region.

The John Hay NWR showcases the legacy of the late John Hay and honors the wishes of his daughter-in-law, Alice Hay, who donated the land to be conserved for migratory birds. It provides a special place where people come to experience the beauty of the undeveloped Lake Sunapee shoreline and the majestic northern forest. Together with our partners, we will continue to provide increasing opportunities for outreach to the community and a broad array of visitors to raise awareness about the refuge's wildlife stewardship mission, and the broader network of conserved lands in the region.

Draft Refuge Goals

Goal 1. Contribute to the biological diversity of the Atlantic northern forest and Lake Sunapee region by protecting, enhancing, and restoring the refuge's upland habitats, with an emphasis on breeding, migrating, and wintering birds.



Lakeshore E. Victory photo

Goal 2. Maintain the long-term biological integrity of forest habitats in the context of the larger conserved area in the Lake Sunapee watershed for migratory birds.

Goal 3. Maintain and enhance the biological diversity and environmental health of the Lake Sunapee shoreline and freshwater wetlands to benefit more general, wide array of terrestrial

and aquatic species, (including Federal listed species, waterfowl, other migratory birds, fish and shellfish, reptiles, and amphibians).



Red Maple E. Victory photo

Goal 4. Promote enjoyment and awareness of the John Hay Refuge and surrounding conserved land area's natural resources by providing high-quality, compatible, wildlife-dependent recreational and educational opportunities on refuge lands and adjacent lands and waters.

Goal 5. Communicate and collaborate with local communities, Federal and state agencies, the Fells, and conservation organizations throughout the Lake Sunapee region to promote natural resource conservation and stewardship and the mission of the refuge system.

How You Can Get Involved

Including the local community, our partners, and other stakeholders throughout the planning process is vital to the ultimate success of the plan. In particular, we hope to engage local residents and community leaders in discussing ways the refuge could become a more integral part of the community. If you are interested in helping us plan this refuge's future, we encourage you to participate. You can call, write or email us at any time to provide input. Please visit the website (<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/refugeCCPs.html>) for updates and news. We will also schedule public meetings at various stages of the planning process to facilitate your input.



Red eft E. Victory photo

Public Meeting for John Hay NWR CCP

The draft Vision and Goals for the John Hay NWR will be presented to the public on October 9, 2008 at the Newbury Town Hall from 7-9pm. Please come to meet the staff, learn about current refuge management, help us identify issues and concerns, and make recommendations about future refuge programs. We hope to see you there!